

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8871

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCOM, US, MX

SUBJECT: PLANS FOR VISIT OF PUERTO RICAN GOVERNOR ABANDONED.

REF: A. STATE 206510 B. MEXICO 8066 C. MEXICO 8164

1. PUERTO RICAN REPRESENTATIVE WASHINGTON, JOSE CABRANES, INFORMED POLITICAL COUNSELOR NOVEMBER 16 THAT PLANS FOR GOVERNOR'S VISIT LATER THIS MONTH HAD BEEN ABANDONED. STRONG AND PERSISTENT EFFORTS MADE BY CABRANES DURING PERSONAL VISIT TO MEXICO CITY AND SUBSEQUENT TELEPHONE CALLS IN EFFORT TO ARRANGE FOR RECEPTION OF GOVERNOR BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. GOM REMAINED NEGATIVE, HOWEVER, AND PUERTO RICANS DECIDED TO CANCEL. CABRANES HAD APPARENTLY RECEIVED INFORMAL ASSURANCES FROM PRESIDENT'S BROTHER, RODOLFO ECHEVERRIA, THAT LATTER WOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE UNOFFICIAL INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT, BUT THIS WAS FAR FROM FIRM COMMITMENT. GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO CANCEL THE VISIT, ACCORDING TO CABRANES, WAS FINALLY DETERMINED BY FACT THAT HIS PRESS RELATIONS OFFICER HAD PREMATURELY PUBLICIZED PROSPECTIVE VISIT SOME TIME AGO. HAD THE GOVERNOR COME TO MEXICO AND NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT, PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL OPPOSITION WOULD HAVE PLAYED UP THIS FACT AS SLIGHT TO GOVERNOR. CABRANES INDICATED A VISIT MIGHT BE SCHEDULED SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE WITH OR WITHOUT A COMMITMENT FOR PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW.

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2. COMMENT: IT SEEMS EVIDENT THAT PUERTO RICAN PLANNING WAS

HASTY AND NAIVE WITH RESPECT TO SITUATION IN MEXICO. EMBASSY
REMAINS SKEPTICAL AS TO REAL WEIGHT OF "PROGRESSIVE CIRCLES"
CITED REF B WHICH OPPOSED VISIT. SOME POLICY MAKERS IN GOM,
HOWEVER, CLEARLY FELT CORDIAL RECEPTION OF PUERTO RICAN GOVERNOR
MIGHT TARNISH GOM'S "ANTI-COLONIAL" IMAGE IN "THIRD WORLD".
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